

Vermont Department of Labor  
PO Box 488  
Montpelier, VT 05601-0488

**Federal Pell Grant Information**

Mailing date: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
ID: xxxx

Name  
Address  
Address

This letter is to advise you of an exciting new opportunity for education and training now available to unemployed workers. You may now be eligible for up to \$5,350.00 in federal Pell Grants to assist you in educational and training expenses as a result of the May 8, 2009 announcement made by President Obama.

In that important announcement the President stated that workers who are getting unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education and may also be able to keep UI benefits while enrolled, provided prior approval has been requested and received. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships must be used towards a degree and when awarded, may cover up to \$5,350.00 in education and training expenses. They are available at all Vermont colleges and other trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other financial aid at those institutions.

**Applying for financial aid and finding educational and training opportunities is not difficult.** If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, here are the steps you should take:

1. Decide what type of training best meets your needs. Need some help with this?
  - The US Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, [www.opportunity.gov](http://www.opportunity.gov), where you can find helpful information. Additional information about training and careers can also be found at [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org); or
  - Go to a VDOL Resource Center for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities. A list of VDOL's Regional Centers is provide on the reverse side of this notice; or
  - Visit the college or trade/technical school you hope to attend.
2. Apply for a federal Pell Grant by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
  - If you have decided which college you are attending, the financial aid office there will help you apply for the Pell Grant and other financial aid.
  - You may also contact the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation at 1-800-642-3177 and on the web at [www.vsac.org](http://www.vsac.org). An application is also available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID.
  - If you are not sure what college you want to attend, a VDOL Resource Center near you will be able to assist.

**Please note:** Although you will need to report last year's income on the FAFSA form when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances by providing a copy of this letter to the school you select. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are an unemployment insurance beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will use this letter to adjust your eligibility. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide alternative evidence that you are currently receiving unemployment insurance by going to [www.labor.vt.gov](http://www.labor.vt.gov) and clicking on "Unemployment Insurance – Claimant Application" link located in the green box on the left hand side of every VDOL web page. Once you sign into the claimant application you may print your current claim information. If you do not have internet access, you may visit your local VDOL Resource Center to use a computer or call the Claimant Assistance line at 1-877-214-3332.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION related to YOUR Unemployment Insurance benefits:**

If you are still receiving UI benefits if/when you receive approval for a Pell Grant, **you must call the Unemployment Claims Center Claimant Assistance line at 1-877-214-3332**, at which time you will be provided further instructions.

If you receive a Pell Grant to help with school expenses, your unemployment benefit eligibility will not be denied simply because you are enrolled in school or training, as long as you have contacted the Unemployment Claims Center Claimant Assistance line and taken the necessary steps in advance as instructed above.

While our economy is struggling, we have an opportunity to improve workers' skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economy in the future. We hope this information will give you some helpful information and encouragement to continue your education and training.

Please carefully consider this opportunity.

Vermont Department of Labor  
Unemployment Insurance and Wages Division

Below is a list of VDOL's 6 Regional Centers. VDOL also has 6 satellite offices. To learn more about a potential satellite office nearer to you, please call the Regional Center closest to you.

**Central Vermont**

McFarland State Office Building  
5 Perry Street, Suite 200  
Barre, VT 05641  
802-476-2600

**Southern Vermont**

200 Asa Bloomer Building  
Rutland, VT 05701  
802-786-5837

**Southeast Vermont**

56 Main Street, Suite 101  
Springfield, VT 05156  
802-885-2167

**Southwest Vermont**

150 Veterans memorial Dr, Suite 2  
Bennington, VT 05201  
802-442-6376

**Northeast Vermont**

1197 Main Street, Suite 1  
St. Johnsbury, 05819  
802-748-3177

**Northwest Vermont**

63 Pearl Street  
Burlington, VT 05401  
802-863-7676